

Dr. Gerhard Schmidt, Vice-President - Research and Advanced Engineering at Ford Motor Company

Dr. Schmidt joined Ford Motor Company April 1, 2001. He leads a worldwide research organization based in Dearborn, Mich., and Aachen, Germany. Ford's research staff of approximately 1,300 scientists, engineers and technicians is devoted to anticipating the technical needs of Ford Motor Company customers, providing innovative solutions to technical challenges, and incorporating those solutions into products and processes.

As head of the advanced engineering group, Dr. Schmidt also oversees the planning, development and implementation of Ford's top global technology objectives.

Prior to his arrival at Ford, Dr. Schmidt served as senior vice president Vehicle Integration at BMW AG and spent 10 years as senior vice president Powertrain Development for the German automaker.

During his 21 years at BMW, Dr. Schmidt held a wide range of leadership roles in engine research and development.